

IMPROVED PROCESS FOR PRODUCING ETHANOL

Abstract

An improved process for producing ethanol from a vegetative material feedstock, particularly whole corn kernels or corn meal. The feedstock, or at least some portion of the feedstock, is subjected to cold solvent extraction prior to hydrolysis. That portion of the feedstock to be treated is subjected to extraction under extraction conditions with a C3 or C4 hydrocarbon solvent, preferably propane. Typical extraction conditions include a pressure below about 200 psig, preferably 100–140 psig, and at a temperature below 140°F, preferably between 60°F–130°F.